

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-04

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DEPT. PASS TO DHEW/OIH AND NIH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, OSCI, JA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NIH KOBATA RESEARCH CONTRACT

REF: TOKYO 766

1. TANAKA (MOFA) CALLED SCIENCE OFFICER ON MARCH 3 TO GIVE PROGRESS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE EMBASSY-MOFA-NAKAI MEETING OF JANUARY 16 (REFTEL). TANAKA STATED DR. NAKAI HAD BEEN IN BED FOR NEARLY A MONTH WITH FLU AND HAD ONLY RECENTLY HAD CHANCE TO DISCUSS QUESTION WITH DR. KAYA AND MR. HARA (JSPS).

2. POSSIBILITY OF USING JSPS AS INSTITUTIONAL CHANNEL FOR NIH FUNDS WAS DISCUSSED BY DR. NAKA WITH DR. KAYA AND MR. HARA. KAYA STATED HE FELT VIABILITY THIS SORT OF ARRANGEMENT WAS QUOTE QUESTIONABLE UNQUOTE SINCE JSPS IS SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTION WHICH RECEIVES ITS OWN FUNDS THROUGH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND IS AUDITED BY GOJ AUDITING OFFICE. KAYA BELIEVED SUCH A PROCEDURE MIGHT SIMPLY ADD ANOTHER ADMINISTRATIVE LAYER WITHOUT RESOLVING BASIC ISSUE OF USG FUNDING OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN JAPAN THROUGH GOJ INSTITUTION.

3. DRS. NAKAI AND KAYA ALSO DISCUSSED STRATEGY IN APPROACHING MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. KAYA'S PERSONAL EVALUATION WAS THAT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS ARE RATHER SLIM BECAUSE OF CONTINUING POLITICAL NATURE OF THE ISSUE AND INERTIA WITHIN MOE TO CHALLENGING STATUS QUO ON THIS STYLE OF ISSUE. MOFA WILL
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SOON BE MAKING APPROACH TO MOE DIRECTLY TO OBTAIN REACTION

ON REVISED CONTRACT PROVISIONS AND SOUND OUT MOE ON ANY OTHER RESERVATIONS THEY MAY HAVE.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, KOBATA CONTRACT IS NOW ALSO SUFFERING FALLOUT EFFECTS FROM LOCKHEED AFFAIR. NOT ONLY HAVE MOFA ENERGIES BEEN ABSORBED IN LOCKHEED TO DETRIMENT OF OTHER, LESS IMMEDIATE CONCERNS, BUT SOCIALIST DIET MEMBER NARAZAKI WHO ORIGINALLY RAISED QUESTION OF USG-FUNDED CBR RESEARCH IN JAPAN IN 1974 IS ALSO ONE OF GOVERNMENT'S LEADING ANTAGONISTS OVER LOCKHEED. THUS, POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS OF KOBATA QUESTION WITHIN MOFA AND MOE HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN SHARPENED.

5. TANAKA STATED THAT DR. NAKAI PRESENTLY THINKING ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF USING PRIVATE U.S. CHANNEL (ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AS TYPE OF INSTITUTION HE HAS IN MIND) FOR FUNDING RESEARCH IN JAPAN. HE ALSO REFERRED TO NAS-RERF RELATIONSHIP AS POSSIBLE MODEL TO BE EXPLORED FURTHER. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THOUGHTS OF DEPARTMENT, DHEW AND NIH ON THESE POSSIBILITIES.

6. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR PROGRESS ON GOJ SIDE AND WILL BE PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEGOTIATIONS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING U.S.G. VIEWS ON WHAT LEGAL CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS ON PART OF GOJ ARE ENTAILED OTHER THAN THROUGH SPECIFIC WORDING OF CONTRACT AS REQUESTED REFTEL, PARA. 3. WE WISH TO BE AS FULLY PREPARED AS POSSIBLE TO RESPOND TO ANY GOJ OVERTURES IF AND WHEN THEY OCCUR. PLEASE ADVISE.

7. ALSO, PLEASE FORWARD LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF QUOTE FIXED PRICE CONTRACT UNQUOTE REQUESTED REFTEL, PARA. 4, FOR PASSING TO NUMATA (MOFA).
SHOESMITH

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